

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission**  
**Minutes of meeting, April 24, 2001**

**Present:** Commissioners-

Sue Cone, Village of Calumet  
Reverend Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners  
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township  
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township  
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan

National Park Service-

Steve DeLong, KEWE, Landscape Architect  
Frank Fiala, KEWE, Superintendent  
Abby Sue Fisher, KEWE, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services  
Brian Hoduski, KEWE, Curator  
Geri Larsen, KEWE, Maintenance

**Absent:** Commissioner-

Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service

**Recording Secretary:** Abby Sue Fisher

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, April 24, 2001, at 9:00 a.m. in Calumet, Michigan at park headquarters.

**Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda

**Review of Minutes**

Minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting held January 23, 2001 were distributed and approved.

**Introductions**

Frank Fiala introduced Jill Burkland, Executive Director of the Isle Royale Natural History Association. Paul Lehto introduced Stan Dyl, Director of the A.E.Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Technological University.

## **Old Business**

Sue Cone reported on the sub-committee meetings to hire an executive director for the Advisory Commission. The sub-committee will meet one more time. They made a decision to hire an executive director instead of filing the position through a contract. Sue stated the position would cost approximately \$ 65,000 or more a year with health and liability insurance coverage. Paul Lehto stated that at least half of the annual budget for the commission will be spent on an executive director. Tom Nemacheck asked if there was a marketing plan and if the position would be widely advertised. Frank Fiala stated he would like to take a one-page summary of the position to the Michigan Historic Preservation conference this week. Discussions about the timeline of hiring process ensued. The Advisory Commission would like to advertise by the end of May with an application deadline of late June for hiring in hopefully late August. A sub-committee will convene in early May to firm up the position description. It was stated that Frank should be in the loop in reference to the interview process.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Frank Fiala began his report by commending his staff for the quantity and quality of work they have done in the past few months. Staff accomplishments include pulling together information for the Value Analysis Workshop in January that was conducted to assess the C&H Administration project. Several staff members conducted research and wrote portions of the C&H Administration Building Historic Structures Report, Part I-History (Frank passed this around). Part two will document condition, and part three provides and treatment recommendations. Frank passed this document around. Tom Baker updated the park website ([www.nps.gov/kewe](http://www.nps.gov/kewe)) with links to the park cooperating sites (a hard color copy was passed around). Frank would like a link to the Advisory Commission on the website so the meeting minutes can be posted. Park staff worked together to complete a presentation for the Develop Advisory Board meeting in Denver next week. Frank and Fritz Rushlow gave the presentation at the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha and received approval.

Frank stated the fiscal year 2002 budget request in the "Green Book" has \$ 1.32 million targeted for park base operations, and \$ 2.5 million line item funds for the Union Building. The Title 8 funds received this fiscal year must be obligated by 9/30 although the park may receive a 2-month extension. Frank is pleased with the Green Book submission.

The park now owns the Pay Office Building on Quincy Hill (closed on 4/10). Park staff completed a salvage project to remove artifacts from the attic in preparation for an asbestos mitigation project the week of 4/21. The Isle Royale Natural History Association (IRNHA) and the George Wright Society (GWS) will remain the two tenants in the building. The park hopes to rehabilitate the building in the near future.

Funds for land acquisition were made available through the Midwest Regional Office. An offer has been made on Warehouse number 1 and is interested in acquiring 100 acres

of land on Quincy Hill, however an appraisal is needed first. A recommendation was made to International Paper to sell the park the C&H Library Building. These purchases would secure the four buildings the park identified in the core industrial area last year.

Frank attended the Main Streets National Program meeting with Tom Tikkanen. Endorsement for a local Main Street Program will be discussed with the Township, Village, and the Advisory Commission. Frank plans on attending the Michigan Historic Preservation Conference later this week with staff members John Rosemurgy, Steve DeLong, and Abby Sue Fisher. He travels to Denver May 1 for the DAB presentation but after that travel slows down.

Heritage Celebration is scheduled for June 29 and will run though Sunday July 1.

The next Advisory Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 11 so members can attend the Opera, Children of the Keweenaw, sponsored by the Pine Mountain Music Festival.

Frank included a Section 106 Flow Chart in the handouts given to all Advisory Commission members. Frank stated that he felt very frustrated by the local governments' lack of knowledge about compliance when federal funds are being expended. The Superintendent of Schools, and Director of the Hospital made a request for a blinking light at Campus Drive and Hwy 41. The Department of Transportation Study is included in the handouts. Frank wrote the DOT that they may be in violation of section 4 F of the Transportation Act and that more study is needed before decisions are made that place inappropriate emphasis on access to Hwy 41. It appears the DOT plans to install the light regardless of opposition, however, more discussion is needed and alternative signage needs to be addressed before a final decision is made.

Information on the proposed Hancock Industrial Park was passed out including letters from the State Historic Preservation Office, UP Engineers, and the City of Hancock. The City proposed changed to protect historic foundations in the area, however, there are other issues such as traffic, view sheds, cultural landscapes, and impacts on the hard scrabble as well as the community of Back Street. The NPS is not opposed to the project, we just want the opportunity to review plans that will impact the Quincy National Historic Landmark District.

#### **Frank then took questions:**

Larry Lankton asked where the Advisory Commission entered the decision making process and Frank responded that the Commission should consult and make their opinions known, but expenditure of any federal funds require compliance. Larry stated that development of Quincy Hill will not go away and we need to address impacts we will create in terms of pedestrian traffic across Hwy 41, parking, and traffic with plans for the Mineral Museum, the Pay Master Building, and Quincy Mine Hoist. Larry recommended a sub-committee start to deal with these issues. He also recommended

that the park write a Development Plan stating what they want in terms of parking, access, and to begin looking at the design process.

Frank stated the Advisory Commissions' exposure to these issues will increase as soon as the Director comes on board. Frank stated a Development Advisory Group is needed that the park could sponsor to involve community and promote a better understanding of historic preservation. Steve DeLong (KEWE staff) stated the area has suffered from a lack of committee planning for the past 30 years and we are paying the price. It is an opportune time to coordinate planning efforts. The park will soon start a Cultural Landscape Report, which will provide much needed information for planning decisions on Quincy Hill.

### **Reports from the Commissioners**

Tom Nemacheck passed out a Michigan Travel Guide and another travel guide dedicated to the Upper Peninsula. The piece on the Keweenaw Peninsula (page 51 in the UP Guide) is politically oriented. Last year the UP magazine had 80 articles focusing on the UP and this year it has only 40. Tom mentioned that all the planning regarding travel to the UP is done downstate.

Reverend Robert Langseth addressed globalization of the world, diversity, values of place, open space, family and sense of community in reference to a book titled "Bowl Alone" He mentioned the concept of heritage is critical to impart in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He mentioned plans for St. Anne's but stated there was a lack of funds. St. Anne's has a new website: [www.pastie.com/heritage](http://www.pastie.com/heritage).

Larry Lankton began his report by recommending that the Commission write a letter to Lisa Dwyer to thank her for being recording secretary. A resolution was passed to commend Lisa for her dedication to the Commission.

Larry participated in the National Council for Public History in Ottawa last week. The theme of the conference was the nature of place and focused on how people shape place. He mentioned the poor rock study and how this key element of the industrial landscape is quickly disappearing. Documenting the rock piles would make an excellent masters thesis project. This could entail identification of rock piles at Quincy, Calumet & Hecla, Oseola, Central, Phoenix and Painsdale mine sites. He asked if the Commission could support this project with \$ 10,000 that could potentially be matched by the park, stating also that he understood his personal interest in the project with his connections to MTU. Stan Dyl recommended a potential funding source from Steve Waylan.

Larry reported on St. Anne's Church project that raised \$ 75,000 for exterior renovation project to reroof, tuck point, and relaying the stone steps at the entrance. The St. Anne's board is hoping to raise an additional \$ 25,000 through a fund drive to complete the work. Larry asked if the Commission would contribute \$ 10,000 toward the project. Paul Lehto responded by stating the Advisory Commission needs to come up with a budget, but also that if the Commission funds one good cause, there will be 100 more to follow.

Sue Cone reported the Calumet Theatre was awarded a \$ 150,000 grant but still need \$ 50,000 for renovations. She stated the Save America's Treasure grant did not look promising due to the criteria. Sue stated the DDA is accepting proposals for downtown traffic flow and streetlights on a block-by-block basis. The DDA is currently looking at a variety of projects to rehabilitate historic buildings. The Planning Commission is reviewing the Master Plan that was written ten years ago. Sale of the Michigan House is moving forward including a liquor license. Sue mentioned the upcoming meeting in Lansing to talk about the village proposal and the Economic Summit. Joseph Mihal recommended that Frank call Kathryn Eckert about the Lansing meeting.

Clyde Raasio is working on the Executive Directors position description. He mentioned the 6-acre parcel of land behind the Pay Office. Frank wrote a letter to the City about an appraisal but has not heard back yet. Paul asked Clyde to follow up on the appraisal. Amy Wisti of U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak's office mentioned the Congressman will be in the area this coming weekend and asked for a calendar of events. Paul asked if Stupak could attend the Opera on July 11 and Amy recommended writing a letter to invite him to the event.

### **Reports, Comments, and Questions from the Public**

Elsa Mudford asked if the NPS was considering making Jacobsville a cooperating site because of the impact and significance the sandstone quarry has made to the area. Two quarries are visible from the road but Elsa said visitors often come asking about the history or the quarry and the residents have a great opportunity to tell the story. The Jacobsville church is on the National Register. There is also a one-room schoolhouse and a historic cemetery. She asked about the criteria to become a cooperating site and would like to raise funds to improve the infrastructure. Elsa asked the Commission if they would consider her request. Paul stated that no criteria has been established yet. Frank stated there is currently a moratorium on cooperating sites till the park and Commission can establish how cooperating sites will function with the park. Once the Executive Director is hired, this person will conduct business for the Commission and manage the cooperating sites.

Ed Yarbrough praised the park staff for their assistance with the museum management project at Quincy and that now the Quincy Board recognizes the value of archives and artifacts. Ed extended a thanks to Tom Baker for updating the park website and including links to the cooperating sites. He wants to work with Tom on the Quincy link. Quincy wants to establish a walking tour, recognizing that the neighborhood will be changing with the addition of the Seaman Mineral Museum on Quincy Hill. Franklin Township approved the tax-exempt status pending approval from Quincy Township. Ed recently paid a visit to Burt Boyum, Past President of Quincy Mine Hoist at the Eastwood Nursing Home in Negaunee and said how wonderful it was to visit with him.

Geri Larsen spoke about the Clean Up Day she has organized for Community Days, which will begin at 9:00 a.m., May 12 at Agassiz park. She has organized 50 people (30

are kids) to clean four areas. The event will begin with a safety meeting and anyone is invited to join. Geri is also organizing a fall clean-up, and has involved the Forest Service who will provide a tree planting demonstration. She has made contact with the Village and will be contacting the Township soon.

Dick Dana from Coppertown, reported on Morrison School and recent water entry into the building during the past storm season. Coppertown plans to repair glass windows and clean the school in addition to establishing a Comprehensive Development Planning Team. Dick also reported on a new exhibit Mark Rowe of the Keweenaw County Historical Society is developing on the City of Bangor wreck for Eagle Harbor. The Historical Society is closer to acquiring a 36-foot Coast Guard Vessel at the Eagle Harbor Light Station.

Steve DeLong reported on a recent Coastal Zone Management grant he submitted for planning work at the Smelter site. The grant focuses on documentation and identification of archeological and historical resources at the site. Information will be used to explore planning issues and stabilization of the site. He mentioned a comprehensive base map is needed.

Joseph Mihal made a request to the Commission to begin to consider funding the purchase and stabilization of buildings in the Village of Calumet. He stated the Village is a primary park partner and the threat of losing buildings is escalating as years go by. It would take tens of million of dollars to purchase buildings and renovate the infrastructure, but Joseph made a plea to the Commission to prioritize and purchase one building a year in an effort to save historic structures before they are lost. He also suggested the Commission invite State Representatives to visit Calumet to see the potential that exists to preserve this historic village.

Paul Lehto recommended a work session to finalize the position description to hire the Executive Director to take place May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.

Bob Langseth suggested developing a budget and economic summit committee.

Sue Cone stated how glad she was that Ed went to visit Burt and recommended the Commission send Burt a card thanking for his efforts in establishing the park.

The next Advisory Commission meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was then adjourned.